

## TOWSON POLICE STATION

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Fortunately much of the original building remains intact and it seems safe to say that it is one of our more decorative public buildings. It is a brick building with a green tile roof of the Spanish style. On the main facade are many details generally associated with the Georgian Revival such as a projecting central bay, belt-coursing, doric columns and a swan's-neck pediment featuring the familiar pineapple motif. Other symbolic sculptures appropriate to the headquarters of a law enforcement agency are executed in bronze and stone.

## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

BA - 1439

MA61-0314393701

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Towson Police Station

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

300 Block Washington Ave.

CITY, TOWN

Towson

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☒ PUBLIC☐ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

## PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☒ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

County Commissioners of Baltimore County

Telephone #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE.  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

New Courts Building

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Towson

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE <u>Summer, 1978</u>

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

This two story buick structure, built into the side of a hill, rests on a high foundation which rises four feet off of the ground on the south end. The main block is five bays wide and four bays deep. The structure is of common bond brick and is topped by a hipped roof with ridge which is covered with a bright green tile in the Spanish manner. An interior chimney exits this roof on the south side lining up with the southernmost bay.

The building extends to the West, having a wing four bays long and three bays wide, thus giving it a T-plan. There is a further extension as a result of a modern addition to this wing.

The east facade, or main facade, contains certain decorative features that give this building its individual character. A water table made from granite-like composition stone is accentuated by a row of vertically laid bricks. A belt course of the same stone surrounds the building at mid-point and is made decorative by formstone quoins.

The fenestration of the building is regular. On the first level on each facade of the main block there are tall round arch windows with 9/9 lights topped by fan windows. The second level is a simple 9/9 sash. The building has deep eaves covered with copper sheathing and copper downspouts on all four corners.

The most decorative feature of the building is the central bay of this main facade which projects approximately one foot and contains a centrally located entrance. This entrance consists of double doors surrounded by a swan's neck pediment. The impressive doric columns with capitals are made decorative by egg and dart motifs. There is an entablature with dentils beneath which read in bronze lettering "Towson Station."

The central space of the swan's neck, or broken pediment, is filled by a pineapple (a traditional symbol of hospitality). The scrolls are decorated with a chain motif. The whole is back dropped with a round arch fan shaped transom entranceway reached by four marble steps.

On the second story above the entrance is a panel with the words "Department of Police" flanked by appropriate symbols of the fence.

Above this panel is a tripartite window consisting of a large sash window with an unusual 15/15 light flanked by a narrower 6/6 sash. The central window is offset by baroque-like spiraled columns.

- The north and south facades of the west wing have fenestration consisting of three tiny sash windows (4/4) on the eastern half of both the first and second levels, and pairs of 6/6 sash on the western half.

The easternmost bay of the north facade contains a tall entranceway consisting of a four paneled glass door, and a three light transom resting beneath a flat arch.

The interior of the main block consists of four main rooms. The entrance hall is flanked by two small rooms used as offices. The southernmost side contains an ascending stairway. The northwest and southwest rooms are somewhat larger, the northwest being a receiving area for the public, the southwest being an office.

The twelve foot ceilings are finished with wide cornice molding. The one foot thick walls, which have a plain chair rail, result in deep doorways

**CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY**

finished with inset paneling. Peeling paint in the doorway of the northeast corner office reveals oak wood.

The interior transoms have the same frosted glass as the fanlights and round arches.

The boiler room below is entered by a steel fire door. It is of brick foundation.

Proceeding through to the west wing, a center hall flanked by several office rooms leads to the cell block. There are four cells, two of solid steel walls and steel cage fronts, and two with steel cage backs. The cells are four feet wide, two are seven feet high and two are eight feet high, seven feet deep with cell doors two feet wide and seven high. The doors have a centrally located solid steel plate with a 5" x 8" opening which allows exchange through the door.

A wooden bench runs the length of the cell, 1½' wide, on the south side of the cell. Two of these benches are suspended by foldable straps. A checker board has been carved onto one of these benches.

At the north end of the room there is one toilet and sink. Two windows with frosted glass vent the north wall.

The upstairs was originally one wide hall which repeats the floor plan below.

Supportive beams cut with a circular saw and wire nails have been observed in the attic.

An interesting feature in the new wing is that it contains a windowless cell block with a solid steel door having only an 8" square opening for communications.

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

1920's

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Being one of the many public buildings in this courthouse town the Towson Police Station is also a document of the enormous growth of the county seat in the second and third quarters of this century. "Towson Station" was built in the 1920's and saw several additions and alterations before a new station was constructed on Bosley Avenue in the 1960's.

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CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See Attachment

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

WAYNE L. NIELD, II  
HISTORIC TOWSON, INC.

ORGANIZATION

D. Owings

DATE

STREET &amp; NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

## TITLE SEARCH for POLICE STATION

Liber 641, Folio 414 March 1, 1927

Grantor: John H. Rider & wife

Grantee: County Commissioners of Baltimore County

"Beginning...stone planted at intersection formed by the north side of alley...with west side of Washington Ave....East 50'...West 90'... West 50'...East 90' to place of beginning containing .103 acre of land."

Liber 630, Folio 535 June 6, 1926

Grantor: Mary E. Zinkand et. al.

Grantee: John H. Rider

"Beginning...lot # 1...intersection south side of Chesapeake Ave. and west side of Washington Ave...West 111'...West 175'...East 111'... East 175'...containing .45 acre..."

Mortgage: Liber 663, Folio 420 January 3, 1924

Luella K. Keech & husband to Mary E. Zinkand et. al.

Liber 541, Folio 113 May 31, 1921

Grantor: W. Otis France & wife

Grantee: Luella K. Keech

# Towson Police Station







BA-1439

TOWSON POLICE STATION  
S. E. CORNER

W. NIELD  
9/78



BA-1439

TOWSON POLICE STATION  
E. FACADE  
DETAIL

W. NIELD  
9/78